

Page 22, paragraph bridging pages 21 and 22:

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As illustrated in Figs. 2 to 4, the plurality of optical path changing means A are provided so that the ridgelines of the optical path changing means A are parallel to or inclined to the incidence side surface on which light is incident. In this case, the optical path changing means A may be formed so as to be continued from one end to the other end of the optical path changing polarizer 1 as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, or may be formed intermittently and discontinuously as illustrated in Fig. 4. When the plurality of optical path changing means A are formed discontinuously, it is preferable from the point of view of efficiency of incidence of the transmission light, efficiency of changing the optical path, etc. that the length of each prismatic structure made of a groove or a protrusion along the direction of the incidence side surface is selected to be not smaller than 5 times as large as the depth or height of the prismatic structure. It is further preferable from the point of view of uniform light emission on the polarizer that the length is selected to be not larger than 500 μm , particularly in a range of from 10 to 480 μm , more particularly in a range of from 50 to 450 μm .

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

4. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said optical path changing slopes are formed into a structure of grooves each substantially triangular shaped.

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5. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said optical path changing slopes are formed into a structure of grooves or protrusions each having one of a substantially tetragon shape or a pentagon shape in section.

6. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 1, wherein flat surfaces each of which is inclined at an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane has a first projected area, on said polarizer plane, not smaller than 10 times as large as a second projected area, on said polarizer plane, of slopes each of which is inclined at an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane.

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end

7. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said prismatic structure is constituted by a combination of said optical path changing slopes and flat surfaces, wherein each of said optical path changing slopes is inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane, wherein each of said flat surfaces is inclined at an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane and has a width of not smaller than 10 times as large as the width of each of said optical path changing slopes, and wherein said structure is formed by grooves each of which has substantially a triangle shape in section and which are continued from one end to the other end of said polarizer.

8. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said prismatic structure is constituted by discontinuous grooves each having substantially a polygon shape in section, wherein the length of each of said discontinuous grooves is not smaller than 5 times as large as the depth of each of said discontinuous grooves, wherein said optical path changing slopes are formed in a direction of the length of said grooves and inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane, and wherein a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of said discontinuous grooves is not larger than 10 % of said polarizer plane.

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13. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer comprising:
a polarizer including a polarizing element and a transparent protective layer disposed on at least one side of said polarizing element, said polarizer having two side surfaces;
an adhesive layer disposed on one side surface of said polarizer; and
a repetitive prismatic structure disposed on the other side of said polarizer, said repetitive prismatic structure including optical path changing slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction so as to be inclined at an inclination angle of from 35 to 48 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer;
wherein each of respective refractive indexes of said adhesive layer and a material for forming said optical path changing slopes is not lower than a refractive index of said polarizing element or said transparent protective layer.

AS 16. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 13, wherein at least said adhesive layer disposed on said one side surface of said polarizer is a tacky layer.

20. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 13, wherein each of said optical path changing slopes is based on a groove or protrusion structure having one of a substantially tetragon or a pentagon shape in section.

AG 21. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 13, wherein a first projected area, on said polarizer plane, of any flat surface having an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane is not smaller than 10 times as large as a second projected area, on said polarizer plane, of any slope having an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees.

22. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 13, wherein said structure of irregularities has optical path changing slopes each inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane, and flat surfaces each inclined at an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane and each having a width not smaller than 10 times as large as a width of each of said optical path changing slopes, and wherein said structure is formed by continuous grooves each of which has substantially a triangular shape in section and each of which is extended from one end to the other end of said polarizer.

23. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 13, wherein: said structure of irregularities having optical path changing slopes is formed by discontinuous grooves each has substantially a polygon shape in section; a length of each of said discontinuous grooves is not smaller than 5 times as large as a depth of said groove; said optical path changing slopes are formed in a direction of the length of said grooves and inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane; and a ratio of an area of said discontinuous grooves to an area of said one side surface of said polarizer is not higher than 10 %.

24. (Amended) An optical path changing polarizer according to claim 23, wherein said discontinuous grooves having optical path changing slopes are arranged at random.